MERCHANTS WHO WERE GIVEN QUOTA—FAILURE TO IMPORT FOODSTUFFS

199. Mr. M. O. Thomakutty *(Commerce and Industry):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) is there any instance of merchants who have failed to get down foodstuffs according to the quota given to them;

(*b*) who are they and whether any action has been taken against them?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):*

(*a*) Yes.

Cochin

(*b*) 1. Messrs. Pulikkan Ouseph Antony and Chakko, Cochin.
2. Mr. Ponnambath Abdurahimankutty Haji, Cochin
3. C. L. Varied, Cochin.
4. Messrs. Yogia Pai Narayana Pai, Cochin.
5. Mr. R. Padmanabhan, Cochin.
6. Mr. H. J. Hallegua, Cochin.

Ernakulam and Trippunittura

1. Messrs. K. T. Chandy & Co.
2. Messrs. P. K. Varghese & Sons.
3. Mr. A. B. Mohammed.
4. Messrs. P. A. Naina Kutty Sahib & Sons, Ernakulam.
5. Messrs. K. R. Joseph & Bros.
6. Messrs. Bim Products, Trippunittura.

Trichur

1. V. J. Joseph, Merchant, Trichur.
2. Messrs. V. P. Narayana Ayyar & Sons. Trichur.

Chittur

1. M. Malayandi Chettiar.
2. Mr. T. V. S. Kurukkal, Tattamangalam.
3. C. Krishnaswamy Chettiar, Tattamangalam.

In every case, the explanation of the quota holder was called for. Where the explanation was found to be satisfactory the merchants concerned was allowed to continue as quota holder, while in other cases they were deleted from the list of quota holders in respect of the articles which they failed to import.

PROSECUTIONS—WITHDRAWAL OF—HOARDING AND PROFITEERING

200. Mr. M. O. Thomakutty *(Commerce and Industry):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) has the attention of the Government drawn to a Press Note issued by the Travancore Government regarding the withdrawal of Prosecution launched by that Government under Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Act;

(*b*) if so, do the Government propose to take similar action here?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No, the question was carefully considered some months back and the conclusion was arrived at that similar action need not be taken here.

2. The Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Proclamation was promulgated in the State 3 months after the Ordinance came into force in British India and it was 4 months after the Proclamation was issued that its provisions began to be enforced. Thus the merchants in the State had practically 7 months during which they could have, had they made any genuine attempt, disposed of their articles which they might have bought from British India at exorbitant prices during the pre-control days.

3. In this matter, this Government have followed the same policy as in British India where also offences have not been condoned as a matter of Public policy.

4. Since the Government are participating in the scheme of the Government of India for supply of controlled articles it is but correct that they act in union with that Government in the enforcement of the relative control orders.

5. For the reasons set forth above, Government do not consider that there should be a general condonation of offences.

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